ALABAMA BAPTIST HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MINUTES

OF THE

SEVENTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

NEW RIVER

BAPTIST ASSOCIATION,

HELD WITH

MT. OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH, FAYETTE COUNTY, ALA.,

September 8th to 10th, 1877.

The next Session to be held with Mt. Pleasant Church, Seven Miles Southeast of Fayette C. H., Ala., commencing on Friday before the 2d Sabbath in September, 1878.

FAYETTE C. H., ALA :
PRINTED AT THE "GAZETTE" JOB OFFICE,
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MINUTES.

Mt. Olive Church, Fayette County, Ala., September 8, 1877.

1. The New River Baptist Association met in its Seventh Annual Session, with Mt. Olive Church, commencing on Saturday before the second Sabbath in September, 1877. According to previous arrangement, the Introductory Sermon was preached by Eld. J. B. Ferguson, from Matthew 28: 19 verse, "Go ye therefore and teach all nations," &c.—the part of the verse here written was the text. The sermon was pointed, impressive, and short.

2. After a recess of an hour, during which a bountiful dinner was spread, the delegates assembled in the meeting-house, and the Association was called to order by J. B. Huckabee, former Moderator, and prayer offered by Elder J. B. Huckabee.

3. The delegates from the several churches were then enrolled as their names were read from the letters sent by the churches. Brethren J. E. Bell and G. W. Gravlee being appointed to read. After the names were enrolled, J. B. Huckabee was re-elected Moderator, and A. M. Nuckols, Clerk.

4. Invited visiting ministers to seats.

5. Called for letters from newly constituted churches, or churches wishing to join this Association. Whereupon Oak Ridge Church presented letter and delegates. By motion the Church was received as a member of the New River Baptist Association, and the right hand of fellowship extended to her delegates.

6. Called for the unfinished business of the last session of the Association, as shown by Minute, which was, by motion, refered to committee on arrangements.

7. The Moderator then appointed the following committees for the session:

I. On Preaching—J. M. Span, J. E. Mills and delegates of Mt. Olive.

II. Documents—J E Bell, J C Jones, A J Reeves, E Melton, J W Collins.

III. Arrangements—W. B. Shirley, M. Shiry, J. H. Wade.

IV. Temperance—S. Appling, F. M. Couch, M. Walters.

V. Finance—W. B. Taylor, J. S. Lyle, Samuel Hollingsworth.

VI. Circular Letter—G. W. Gravlee, J. E. Bell, C. M. Weeks.

VII. Nominations—M. L. Parks, G. S. Tucker, G. T. Hassell.

VIII. Deceased Ministers—J. C. Jones, J. E. Bell, A. M. Nuckols, Moderator added by motion.

8. Report of committee on preaching: Elder E. Howell to preach to night, followed by G. W. Gravlee; prayer meeting Sabbath morning at 9 o'clock, conducted by brother William Baker.

9. Adjourned till 8 1-2 o'clock Monday A. M. Prayer by Elder J. E. Bell.

10. Sunday A. M., exercises conducted according to previous appointment, except that the 11 o'clock services were broken up in the beginning by rain; and the rain continued through the day, so that the people could not assemble at the arbor any more. The congregation was so large that the house was not sufficient to shelter them even in a standing position; numbers found shelter in the out houses of Mr. Thompson, who lives near by. Those who were assembled in the meeting-house, were entertained by stirring impromtu addresses from brethren Huckabee and Westbrook; and notwithstanding the threatning aspect of the weather there were services at night, by brethren Harbin and Westbrook. Nothing, however, seemed to compensate for the disappointment of hearing the expected sermon from brother J. E. Bell at 11 o'clock.

11. Monday A. M., met 8 1-2 o'clock as by appointment.—Prayer by brother Harbin.

12. Called for report of Committee on Arrangements. Report adopted, as follows:

1st. Read Constitution, Articles of Faith, and Rules of Decorum; 2d, call names of delegates and mark absentees; 3d, call for corresponce; 4th, return correspondence; 5th, call for report of committee on documents; 6th, report of committee on circular letter; 7th, report of district meetings; 8th, report of committee on Temperance; 9th, report of committee on Nominations; 10th, report of Executive Committee; 11th, report of Board of Domestic Missions; 12th, report of committee on Deceased Ministers; 13th, report of Sabbath School Board; 14th, report of Treasurer; 15th, appoint Treasurer; 16th, call for report of Committee on Finance; 17th, miscellaneous business.

13. Clerk read Constitution, Articles of Faith, and Rules of Decorum.

14. By motion, excused brethren John Reeves, W. A. D. Roberts, M. Walters, W. B. Shirley, J. Nelson and S. M. Appling.

15. Called for correspondence: Received brethren Harbin and Akin from North River Association, without documents.—From Yellow Creek Association, Elds. L. E. Corbit and E. L. Westbrooks, J. C. Hendon, with letter and minutes. Tuscaloosa Association, J. M. Whitney and minute.

15. Returned Correspondence as follows:

North River—Eld. J. B. Ferguson, Eld. J. B. Huckabee, T. E. Goodwin. Yellow Creek—Elds. J. C. Jones, J. E. Bell, E. Howell, G. W. Gravlee. I. N. Ashcraft, J. B. Huckabee, and brother M. Shiry. Tuscaloosa—Willis Davis and T. E. Goodwin.

16. Brother Hendon to preach at 11 o'clock, followed by I. N. Ashcraft.

17. Report of committee on Documents adopted:

Your Committee on Documents report nothing except a request from Macedonia Church to grant her a letter of dismission, for the purpose of joining tne North River Association. We respectfully submit this matter to the Association. J. E. Bell, Chairman.

18. By motion granted Macedonia Church a letter of dismission, which was written by the Clerk and duly signed.

19. Report of Committee on Circular Letter adopted:

We your Committee on Circular Letter, beg leave to report, that whereas it has pleased Almighty God to remove from our midst our beloved brother B. V. Shirley, by death, who was to write the Circular Letter, as there was no alternate, we have no Circular Letter.

Respectfully submitted, G. W. Gravlee, Chairman.

20. Report of District Meetings, as follows:

Appointed the next Session of the Association to be held at Mt. Pleasant Church.

First District Meeting to be held with Shady Grove Church, commencing on Friday before the first Sunday in August, 1878, Brother G. W. Gravlee to preach the Introductory Sermon, J. B. Ferguson, alternate. Brother J. B. Huckabee to preach at 11 o'clock on Sunday, on "The duties of churches to pastors and pastors to churches;" J. E. Bell, alternate. Subject for discussion on Saturday morning, "Prayer," opened by brothers H. M. Bell and W. B. Melton. Subject Saturday evening: "Duty of one church member toward another," opened by brothers I. N. Ashcraft and A. M. Nuckols. J. E. BELL, Moderator.

H. M. Bell, Clerk.

The Second District Meeting to be held with Oak Grove Church, commencing on Friday before the 2nd Sunday in August, 1878; Elder J. C. Jones to preach the Introductory Sermon, Elder J. B. Ferguson, alternate. Elder J. B. Huckabee to preach at 11 o'clock. Subjects to be written upon and read Friday evening: 1st, John 2d chap. and 4th verse, "He that saith

I know Him and keepeth not His commandments," &c., F. M. Cain to write. The second subject to be written upon: Rev. 16th chap. and 13th verse, "And I saw three unclean spirits," &c., J. B. Huckabee to write. Subject to be discussed Saturday morning: "Who are the Primitive Baptists?" Opened by W. A. Huckabee and G. S. Morris. Query for Saturday evening: "Where is our Father's mansion?" Opened by M. C. Bowling and A. J. Reeves. ELD. J. B. HUCKABEE, Moderator.

W. A. TODD, Clerk.

21. Suspended regular order of business, by motion, in order to take up the reference of last year's minute. The report of the Associational Committee was then taken up and read, as follows:

THE STATE OF ALABAMA, }
FAYETTE COUNTY, Oct. 29th & 30th, 1875. }

Whereas, A complaint from Mt. Joy Church was sent up to the Association, complaining against Mt. Zion church as to her course and action in the exercise of discipline, requesting the Association to appoint a committee to investigate the matter. And, whereas, upon the recommendation of the Committee on Documents, a committee of fifteen was appointed to investigate the cause of complaint; and whereas the following brethren, members of the investigating committee, to-wit: B. V. Shirley, J. C. & W. L. Jones, J. B. Ferguson, D. G. Kirkland, E. Melton. M. Walters, Ira Griffin, F. M. Yerby and H. M. Bell, being a quorum, having met at Mt. Zion, and being duly organized by the choosing of B. V. Shirley, Moderator, and H. M. Bell, Clerk. And after a full hearing of the case, and after mature deliberation, make the following report: 1st, We are of the opinion that the church at Mt. Zion acted too hastily in the exclusion of the two sisters, Matilda and Narcissus Perkins. 2d, That the church should not have sufferdd any of her members to be seated with the council, sent as helps from sister churches, after the council was organized. 3d, That the church should not have restricted her committee of helps as to what evidence they should receive. 4th, We consider that the good of the cause of Christ demand the expulsion of brother M. R. Barnett from the fellowship of the church, and therefore advise that he be expelled.

Very respectfully submitted, B. V. SHIRLEY, Moderator.

H. M. BELL, Clerk.

22. The following resolution in regard to the action of Mt. Zion church was adopted, namely: Having received a report from the acting Moderator of Mt. Zion Church, stating that she acted according to the advice of the Associational Committee, therefore; *Resolved*, That we declare ourselves satisfied with the action of said church.

23. The Association, by motion, declares that Mt. Zion church is regularly dissolved.

24. The Association, by motion, inquired into a report in regard to the action of a newly constituted church (Friendship) which has been received into the North River Association. The messengers, Elds. Harbin and Akin, replied to the query and spoke in justification of the action of Friendship church. While this question was pending, a motion to adjourn, one hour, prevailed. Prayer by Bro. Corbit.

AFTERNOON SESSION.—Prayer by ——. (Committee on Preaching appointed Bro. Westbrook to preach at 2 o'clock, followed by E. Howell.) The question pending was then further considered. The answer of the corresponding brethren from North River, and the discussion led to the offering and adoption of the following resolution, by a unanimous rising vote, to-wit: *Resolved*, That in view of the circumstances, we present the cause of complaint to the North River Association at her next session.—Which is in substance as follows: That an excluded member of one of our churches while a member of this body (though now dissolved) has been received into one of her churches, without, *in our opinion*, a proper acknowledgement.

25. Report on Temperance adopted, as follows:

We your Committee on Temperance, beg leave to report, that we desire and advise that our brethren abstain from the use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage. We think it to be rather a bad example for the professed

followers of Christ. We further believe that the use of spirits have been somewhat given over in the last twelve months in all our churches.

SAMUEL APPLING, Chairman.

26. Report on Nominations adopted, as follows:

Elder Elijah Howell to preach the Introductory Sermon, Elder G. W. Gravlee, alternate. Eld. J. C. Jones to preach at 11 o'clock on Sunday, Eld. J. B. Huckabee, alternate. A. M. Nuckols to write Circular Letter.

Respectfully submitted, M. L. PARKS, Chairman.

27. Report of Executive Board adopted as follows:

Your Executive Board would respectfully report, that we have held two meetings of the Board with a quorum, and have sent out to the various churches requests for their contributions, and have had responses to the amount of twenty-thee ($23,00) dollars, and for want of more means, we have contented ourselves with supplying the destitute portion of the Association with stated appointments. We have employed brother J. B. Ferguson to attend the appointments. And he reports that he has labored 15 days, for which we have paid him nine dollars and fifty cents, which leaves in the hands of the Board $13 50 unexpended.

D. G. KIRKLAND, Chairman.

The same Board was continued by motion.

28. For report of Committee on Deceased Ministers see last page of this Minute.

At the suggestion of Bro. Harbin, the Clerk was instructed to have the report clothed in mourning, and request the *Alabama Baptist* to do the same.

29. Called for report of Sabbath School Board. No report. Same Board continued, and A. M. Nuckols added.

30. Called for report of Treasurer. Whereupon the Treasurer submitted the report of ex Treasurer H. M. Bell, which was received, as follows:

Oct. 18th, 1875, received of F. Com't M. Fund,	$24 20	
Associational Fund,	14 65	
Total		$38 85
Cr. by printing Minutes,	$24 20	
" Clerks fee,	10 00	
" Bal. to A. M. Nuckols, Treasurer,	4 65	
Total		$38 85

H. M. BELL, Treasurer New River Association.

Treasurer's report as follows:

Received for Minute Fund.	$25 75	
" Associational Fund,	12 75	
" Of ex-Treasurer Bell,	4 65	
Total		$43 15
Cr. by printing Minutes,	$28 50	
" Clerk's fee,	10 00	
" Balance to Finance Committee,	4 65	
Total		$43 15

A. M. NUCKOLS, Treasurer.

31. Report of Finance Committee as follows:

Rec'd from the several Churches for Minute Fund,	$23 00	
" For Associational purposes,	11 65	
" From ex-Treasurer Bell,	4 65	
Total		$39 30
Treasurer A. M. Nuckols received, after adjournment of Association, from Bro. Asheraft of Chapel Hill church, 75c for Minutes, and 25c Associational Fund,		1 00
Total		$40 30

W. B. TAYLOR, Chairman.

32. Former Treasurer re-appointed.

33. Committee on preaching appointed brother Huckabee to preach to-night; followed by brother Gravlee.

Miscellaneous business:

1st, Received and adopted letters to our sister Associations. 2d, By motion added J. E. Bell, A. M. Nuckols, A. J. Reeves and E. Melton to the list of correspondents to the North River Association. 3rd, Brother J. C. Jones moved that the next session of the Association begin on Friday before the second Sabbath in September, 1878, which motion was adopted. 4th, The following resolution of thanks was unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the thanks of this body are due and are hereby tendered to Mt. Olive church and vicinity, for their very kind and liberal hospitality to us during the present session. In this connection we are proud to be able to commend the marked good behavior and respectful attention of the congregation during the session of the body.

5th. The Clerk was directed to superintend the printing of the Minutes, and to reserve the usual number for correspondence; and to reserve ten dollars for his services.

6th. After discussing the propriety of ministers holding letters, adopted the following resolution:

Resolved, That we advise our churches and ministers not to recognize any minister as orderly who holds a letter of dismission, when there is a favorable opportunity to present it to a regular organized church.

7th. *Resolved*, That this Association hold regular correspondence with the Alabama State Convention.

8th. Appointed correspondence as follows: J. B. Huckabee, J. E. Bell, G. W. Gravlee, J. B. Ferguson, J. C. Jones, M. Shirey, E. Melton and M. Morris.

9th. Adopted the following resolution in regard to Mission work:

Resolved, That we recommend to our ministers and churches to co-operate with the Domestic Mission Board of the Baptist State Convention, at Marion, Ala., and that they raise what means they can by the meeting of the next session of the State Convention, and send up to that body. We respectfully urge the ministry to present this matter to their churches.

10th. The following resolution in regard to our State Paper was adopted:

Resolved, That we recommend to the brethren of this Association our State Paper, *The Alabama Baptist*, as worthy of their support and co-operation, and that we urge them to encourage the noble Standard Bearers of our cause in this State, by coming forward at once and subscribing for their paper.

11th. By motion read and adopted Minutes.

12th. *Resolved*, That we adjourn to meet with Mt. Pleasant church on Friday before the 2nd Sabbath in September, 1878. Prayer.

J. B. Huckabee, Moderator.

A. M. Nuckols, Clerk.

Sung a hymn and took the parting hand.

Paid for printing 550 Minutes,	$23 75
Received my fee for services,	10 00
Balance on hand,	6 55
Total	$40 30

A. M. Nuckols, Treasurer.

Received of A. M. Nuckols, Treasurer, $23 75 for printing Minutes. Richard J. Smith, Printer.

Statistical Table of the New River Baptist Association.

NAMES OF DELEGATES. [Absentees marked thus*]	Churches.	Pastors.	Post Offices.	Monthly meetings	Baptized	Received by L	Dismissed by L	Excluded	Restored	Died	Total	Minute Fund	Associational fund	Watch-care
W A D Roberts*, W Davis, N B McGlathery	Shady Grove	J E Bell	Fayette C. H.	1		1					64	1 00	1 75	
J A South*, J W White, Thos Goodwin	Mt Pleasant	J C Jones	" "	2	3	1		4			47	1 00	75	
Eld G W Gravlee, J Price*, J L Patterson	Shepherd	G W Gravlee	Newtonville	3	1	2				1	48	1 50	75	
Not represented,	Chapel Hill											75	25	
W I Yerby Thos Ray, J Nelson	Pilgrims Rest	J E Bell	Fayette C. H.	2			4				75	1 30	50	
Thos Moore, M C Johnson, Jno Johnson*	New Bethel		Beaverdale	3			12				21	1 00	50	
Eld J E Bell, A M Nuckols, H M Bell*	Fayetteville	J E Bell	Fayette C. H.	3			1	1		2	27	2 00	3 00	
H T Windom*, S Waldrop*, J B Stillman	Rocky Mount	J E Bell	" "	4		4	[illegible]				35	75	70	
Dropped	Sardis													
E Melton, J H Olive, H Oswalt*	Concord	J M Chism	Davis Creek	4	7	3	9	3	1		102	1 25	75	
I N Ashcraft, J M Daffron, W H Brown	Double Branch	I N Ashcraft	Cave Spring	2							16	50	50	
Eld E Howell, E M Laboon*, S E Stokes	Oak Ridge	E Howell									10			
Second District.														
Eld J B Ferguson, J J Deavors*, M L Parks*	Philadelphia	J B Ferguson	Handy	1	7				1		30	1 30	50	
J H Wade, Eld M Morris, S Hollingsworth	Union	J C Jones	Fayette C. H.	3			5	[illegible]		1	51	1 50	50	
	Mt Zion†													
Eld J C Jones, Jno Reeves, W B Shirley	Mt Olive			1	1	5	6			2	88	2 00	1 00	
Eld J B Huckabee, A J Reeves*, M Shiry	Mt Joy	J B Huckabee	Palo	2	1		3				38	1 50	50	
G S Tucker, J E Mills	Hopewell	A M King					8	2			43			
H C Aston, J M Span, F M Couch	Harmonygrove	J C Jones	Fayette C. H.		4	5	3	3		5	87	1 30	20	
A A Smith*, J S Lyle, L C Kelly*	Macedonia§	E T Akin	" "			3	20	4		2	83			
B T Berryhill*, W B Taylor, C M Weeks	Oak Grove	E Chaffin	Mt. Calm	2			1				24	75	75	
S Appling, J W Collins, G T Hassell	Mt Lebanon	J B Huckabee	Palo	1	2		8		1		68	2 00	50	1

†Dissolved by Presbytery, as shown in Minute. §Dismissed.

IN MEMORIAM.

Eld. B. V. SHIRLEY.

Whereas it has pleased the Divine Master to call to rest from his labor, one of our fellow laborers in the ministry, viz: Eld. B. V. SHIRLEY, who was born in Abbeville District, S. C., February 14th, 1820. Our departed brother embraced the christian religion in the 16th year of his age, and joined the Baptist church. He commenced preaching Christ to sinners in the year 1838, when he was 18 years old. Was ordained in 1844. He continued in his *calling* a faithful, zealous, earnest minister of the Lord Jesus Christ until his death, which occurred June 14th, 1877. He was an affectionate husband, a kind father, a pleasant ccmpanion, and an earnest, wise and faithful counsellor. His labors, for the salvation of souls and for the extension of the Master's Kingdom, were wonderfully blessed. He came to Alabama about the year 1858; was in the organization of the New River Association in 1871; served as its Moderator, with dignity, five years, when he requested to be released from that duty. And while we feel that his death was his gain, we the New River Association have sustained an irrepairable loss; Therefore be it

Resolved, That we with Christian fortitude bow to the will of our Heavenly Father.

Resolved, That we tender to the bereaved family our Christian sympathy. Further that this preamble and resolutions be spread on our minutes, and a copy be sent to the "Alabama Baptist" for publication.

J. C. Jones, Chairman.